

We claim:

1. A method for preventing or delaying the progression of hormone receptor positive or hormone receptor unknown breast cancer in a patient, which comprises following estrogen antagonist therapy by subsequent therapy with an estrogen depleting agent prior to disease progression.
2. A method of claim 1 wherein the estrogen antagonist is selected from tamoxifen, fulvestrant, toremifene and raloxifene, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
3. A method of claim 2 wherein the estrogen antagonist is tamoxifen or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
4. A method of claim 2 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is an aromatase inhibitor.
5. A method of claim 3 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is an aromatase inhibitor.
6. A method of claim 4 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is an aromatase inhibitor selected from formestane, exemestane, anastrozole, vorozole, letrozole and aminoglutethimide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
7. A method of claim 6 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor.
8. A method of claim 7 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor selected from anastrozole and letrozole, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
9. A method of claim 5 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is an aromatase inhibitor selected from formestane, exemestane, anastrozole, vorozole, letrozole and aminoglutethimide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.
10. A method of claim 9 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor.

11. A method of claim 10 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor selected from anastrozole and letrozole, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

12. A method of improving the likelihood of disease-free survival or overall survival for a hormone receptor positive or hormone receptor unknown breast cancer patient who has been treated with tamoxifen, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which comprises subsequent therapy with an estrogen depleting agent prior to disease progression.

13. A method of claim 12 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is an aromatase inhibitor.

14. A method of claim 13 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is an aromatase inhibitor selected from formestane, exemestane, anastrozole, vorozole, letrozole and aminoglutethimide, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. A method of claim 14 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor.

16. A method of claim 15 wherein the estrogen depleting agent is a non-steroidal aromatase inhibitor selected from anastrozole and letrozole, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

17. A method of claim 16 wherein the patient was treated with tamoxifen, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, in an adjuvant setting for period of up to six years.

18. A method of claim 17 wherein the period of from 4.5 to 6 years.

19. A packaged pharmaceutical composition of an aromatase inhibitor for the treatment of hormone receptor positive or hormone receptor unknown breast cancer in patients who have previously been treated with tamoxifen, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which includes advice that the likelihood of disease-free survival or overall survival could be improved by subsequent therapy with the aromatase inhibitor prior to disease progression.

20. A method of claim 19 wherein the aromatase inhibitor is selected from anastrozole and letrozole, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.